Amendment to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 42, lines 33-34 with the following:

"Example 10: FACS (Fluorescence Activated Cell Sorting) Analysis of Fluorescently Labeled Ezetimibe Binding to Transiently Transfected CHO Cells."

Please replace the paragraph at page 24, line 24 to page 25, line 2 with the following:

"The invention allows the discovery of selective agonists and antagonists of NPC1L1 (*e.g.*, SEQ ID NO: 2, 4 or 12) that may be useful in treatment and management of a variety of medical conditions including elevated serum sterol (*e.g.*, cholesterol) or 5α-stanol. Thus, NPC1L1 of this invention can be employed in screening systems to identify agonists or antagonists. Essentially, these systems provide methods for bringing together NPC1L1, an appropriate, known ligand or agonist or antagonist, including a sterol (*e.g.*, cholesterol, phytosterols (including, but not limited to, sitosterol, campesterol, stigmasterol and avenosterol)), a cholesterol oxidation product, a 5α-stanol (including but not limited to cholestanol, 5α-campestanol and 5α-sitostanol), a substituted azetidinone (*e.g.*, ezetimibe), BODIPY-ezetimibe (N-(4,4-difluoro-5,7-dimethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene-3-yl)methyl iodoacetamide/ezetimibe) (Altmann, *et al.*, (2002) Biochim. Biophys. Acta 1580(1):77-93) or 4", 6"-bis[(2-fluorophenyl)carbamoyl]-beta-D-cellobiosyl derivative of 11-ketotigogenin as described in DeNinno, *et al.*, (1997) (J. Med. Chem. 40(16):2547-54) (Merck; L-166,143) or any substituted azetidinone, and a sample to be tested for the presence of an NPC1L1 agonist or antagonist. "

Please replace the paragraph at page 48, lines 20-23 with the following:

"Starve. The maintenance media (F12 HAMS, 1%Pen/Strep, 10%FCS (fetal calf serum)) was removed and the cells were rinsed with serum-free HAMS media. The serum-free media was then replaced with 1 mL "starve" media (F12 HAMS, Pen/Strep, 5% lipoprotein deficient serum (LPDS)."

Please replace the paragraph at page 42, lines 17-24 with the following:

"The RNA probes were synthesized using T7 RNA polymerase amplification of a PCR amplified DNA fragment corresponding rat *NPC1L1* nucleotides 3318 to 3672 ~~(SEQ ID NO 1)~~ (SEQ ID NO: 1). Sense and anti-sense digoxigenin–UTP labeled cRNA probes were generated from the T7 promoter using the DIG RNA Labeling Kit following the manufacturer's instructions. Serial cryosections rat jejunum were hybridized with the sense and antiisense probes. Digoxigenin labeling was detected with the DIG Nucleic Acid Detection Kit based on previous methods. A positive signal is characterized by the deposition of a red reaction product at the site of hybridization."

Please replace the paragraph at page 45, lines 21-30 with the following:

Synthetic peptides (~~SEQ ID NO~~ SEQ ID NOs: 39-42) containing an amino- or carboxy-terminal cysteine residue were coupled to keyhole limpet hemocyanin (KLH) carrier protein through a disulfide linkage and used as antigen to raise polyclonal antiserum in New Zealand white rabbits (range 3-9 months in age). The KLH-peptide was emulsified by mixing with an equal volume of Freund's Adjuvant, and injected into three subcutaneous dorsal sites. Prior to the 16 week immunization schedule a pre-immune sera sample was collected which was followed by a primary injection of 0.25 mg KLH-peptide and 3 scheduled booster injections of 0.1 mg KLH-peptide. Animals were bled from the auricular artery and the blood was allowed to clot and the serum was then collected by centrifugation."

Please replace the paragraph at page 61, lines 16-21 with the following (deleted text in double brackets):

"[[**********]]

The present invention is not to be limited in scope by the specific embodiments described herein. Indeed, various modifications of the invention in addition to those described herein will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the foregoing description. Such modifications are intended to fall within the scope of the appended claims."